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Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

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Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

Concluding observations on the initial report of Qatar

Addendum

Comments received from Qatar on the concluding observations*

[Date received: 7 September 2015]

* The present document is being issued without formal editing.

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Please recycle

1. The point 17 concerning Article 8, mentioned the "Prevention of primary impairment" which is unclear and vague. Please give more clarification in this regard, as certain things are nor clear with respect to the impairment prevention mechanism that should be pursued by the State. The question is whether the State of Qatar should put plans to prevent disability or not. The Committee is kindly requested to inform us if there is a specific mechanism that should to pursued by the State.

2. Concerning point 20 in Article 9 (in the light of its general comment No. 2 (2014), what is the meaning of this paragraph?

3. With regard to point 25, article 13 on the right to access to justice, we would like to inform that it we already reported the existence of procedural facilities for them, the existence of Sign Language interpreters, as well as related equipped rooms.

4. Concerning point 27 of article 14 on involuntary detention of persons with disabilities in institutions, we would like to inform you that it was explained during the discussions with the committee that the State does not have specialized institutions for involuntary detention of persons with disabilities.

5. Concerning the points 35 & 36 in Article 18 on freedom of movement and nationality, the Committee's recommendations in this respect does not apply to the current situation in the State of Qatar. This was adequately explained by a member of the Qatari delegation during the discussion with the Committee.

6. Concerning the points 39 & 40 in Article 21 on freedom of expression and opinion and access to information, we would like to inform that all sign language dictionaries have been developed by deaf people themselves (idea and implementation) as well as sign language interpreters and organizations working with deaf persons.

7. For the point 45 in Article 25, the delegation clarified that the State has mandatory and binding training programs for health workers on how to deal with disabilities.

8. With regard to point 45 in Article 25 on the HIV/AIDS testing policies, this test includes the entire population, regardless of nationality or disability, whether applicants are Qatari or non-Qatari, and whether disabled or non-disabled. This test aims at achieving a major goal of the Millennium goals consisting of the eradicate of AIDS and does concern, in any way, the international convention on persons with disabilities.

9. In spite of believing that human rights are indivisible, the delegation is concerned that some of the Committee's observations do not relate to the content and article of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. This was manifest, for example, in the Committee's recommendation to the State to ratify the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families.